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said sliding member moves relative to said computer-mounting portion along a defined first direction;

an elongate handle slidably secured to said sliding member such that said elongate handle moves relative to said sliding member along a defined second direction, said elongate handle extending substantially orthogonally from said computer-mounting portion; and,

a trigger operably secured to said elongate handle in electrical communication with the portable computer such that depressing the trigger actuates the at least one function on the hand-held computer.

2. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said elongate handle is a joystick-type handle.

3. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 2, wherein said joystick-type handle includes a handle grip portion.

4. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said hand-held computer is operably secured to a data reader, and said at least one function includes operating the data reader.

5. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 4, wherein the data reader is a bar code scanner.

6. (Amended) A portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer, the computer having a data reader operably secured thereto, said portable computer handle comprising:

a computer-mounting portion for detachably receiving the hand-held computer;
an elongate handle operably secured to said computer-mounting portion said elongate handle extending substantially orthogonally from said computer-mounting portion; and,

a trigger operably secured to said elongate handle in electrical communication with the portable computer such that depressing the trigger actuates the data reader;
wherein the data reader is a radio frequency identification tag reader.

7. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said hand-held computer is a personal digital assistant.

8. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 7, wherein said personal digital assistant is a commercially available, off-the-shelf product.

9. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said elongate handle is positioned below said hand-held computer and aligned substantially with the center of gravity of the combined portable computer handle and hand-held computer.

10. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said first and second directions are perpendicular to each other and aligned substantially in a plane.

11. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 10, where said first direction is toward and away from a front side of said substantially planar mounting portion.

12. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein the position of said elongate handle with respect to said substantially planar mounting portion is adjustable in both said first direction and said second direction.

13. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 12, wherein said first direction is toward and way from a front side of said mounting portion, and said second direction is toward and away from a right side of said mounting portion.

14. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said elongate handle is rotatably secured to said substantially planar member.

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15. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 1, wherein said elongate handle is operably secured to said substantially planar member such that the angle of said elongate handle with respect to said substantially planar member is adjustable.

16. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 15, wherein a ball and socket joint operably secures said elongate handle to said substantially planar member.

17. The portable computer handle of claim 1, further including at least auxiliary connectivity port operably secured to said portable computer handle and in electrical communication with the hand-held computer.

18. The portable computer handle of claim 17, wherein said auxiliary connectivity port is an electrical jack for operably engaging an external power source to power the hand-held computer

19. The portable computer handle of claim 17, wherein said auxiliary connectivity port is a communications port for operably connecting an external computer system to the hand-held computer.

20. The portable computer handle of claim 1, further including an internal battery received with said portable computer handle, said internal battery in electrical communication with said hand-held computer to provide auxiliary power to said hand-held computer.

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21. (Amended) A portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer, the computer capable of performing at least one function, said portable computer handle comprising:

- a base for detachably receiving the hand-held computer;
- a sliding member slidably secured to said base such that said sliding member moves relative to said base along a defined first direction;
- an elongate handle having a base mounting portion and a handle grip portion, said base mounting portion slidably secured to said sliding member such that said elongate handle moves relative to said sliding member along a defined second direction, wherein said handle grip portion infinitely adjustable in at least two directions with respect to said base; and,
- a trigger operably secured to said handle grip portion and in electrical communication with the hand-held computer such that depressing the trigger actuates the at least one function on the hand-held computer.

22. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 21, wherein said hand-held computer is operably secured to a data reader, and said at least one function includes operating the data reader.

23. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 22, wherein the data reader is a bar code scanner.

24. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 22, wherein the data reader is a radio frequency identification tag reader.

25. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 21, where said first direction is toward and away from a front side of said base.

26. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 21, further including detachable fasteners for operably holding said sliding member and said elongate handle in place.

27. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 26, wherein said first direction is toward and away from a front side of said base, and said second direction is toward and away from a right side of said base.

28. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 21, wherein said handle grip is rotatably secured to said base.

29. (Amended) The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 21, wherein said handle grip portion is operably secured to said base mounting portion such that the angle of said elongate handle grip portion with respect to said base mounting portion is adjustable.

30. The portable computer handle for detachably receiving a hand-held computer of claim 29, wherein a ball and socket joint operably secures said handle grip portion to said base mounting portion.

31. (Newly Added) A portable scanning device comprising:
a scanning element;
a commercially available, general purpose, portable hand-held computer operably secured to the scanning element and defining a general plane, said portable hand-held computer having a plurality of off-the-shelf applications therein, one application of said plurality of applications therein including operating the scanning element in response to an input device operably connected to the hand-held computer; and,

an elongate handle detachably secured to the portable hand-held computer and extending substantially orthogonally from said plane, said elongate handle having a trigger operably secured thereto, said trigger in communication with the input device such that actuating the trigger commands the input device to operate the scanning element.

32. (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 31, further including a base for detachably securing the portable hand-held computer to said handle, and said handle is slidably secured to said base.

33. (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 32, wherein said elongate handle is a joystick-type handle.

34. (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 33, wherein said joystick-type handle includes a handle grip portion.

35. (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 31, wherein said scanning element is a bar code scanner.

36. (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 31, wherein said scanning element is a radio-frequency identification tag reader.

37 (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 31, wherein said handle is positioned below said hand-held computer and aligned substantially with the center of gravity of the combined handle and hand-held computer.

38. (Newly Added) The portable scanning device of claim 31, further including a base for detachably securing the portable hand-held computer to said handle, and said handle is slidably secured to said base such that said handle moves in a first and second direction relative to said base, said first and second directions being substantially perpendicular to each other.

39. (Newly added) The portable scanning device of claim 38, wherein said elongate handle is rotatably secured to said base.

REMARKS

A first Office Action, dated September 12, 2002, rejects pending claims 1-30. Claims 1, 6, 10-16, 21, and 25-29 have been rewritten herein, and new claims 31-39 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection of claims 1-5, 10-23, and 25-30 as being anticipated by Hanson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,349,497). Hansen et al discloses a fundamentally different structure.

As explained more fully in the specification of the present application, among other benefits, the adjustability of the handle with respect to the base allows the user to